

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 58-149, 161, 163-164, and 167-170 without prejudice. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims to non-elected inventions in a Divisional application.

REMARKS

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his consideration during a telephonic interview conducted with the Applicants' representatives on November 20, 2002. At the Examiner's request, the Applicants have summarized the contents of that interview and enclose a copy of the Interview Summary herewith.

Claims 1-18, 20-46, 48-153, 155-157, 165-166, and 171-173 are pending in this application. Claims 58-149, 161, 163-164, and 167-170 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, as being drawn to non-elected inventions. All of the remaining pending claims 1-18, 20-46, 48-57, 150-153, 155-157, 165-166, and 171-173 stand rejected.

The Applicants also submit the Declaration of Dr. Mark Erion, as discussed in the telephonic interview of November 20, 2002.

The Applicants note that in the Examiner's rejections in points 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 of the Office Action dated July 15, 2002, the Examiner has rejected claim 154. However, claim 154 was cancelled in a previous response. The Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to clarify these rejections.

Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for consideration of the previous amendments and arguments, and for removal of some of the rejections.

I. THE ELECTION AND RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has withdrawn new claims 167-170 from consideration as being directed toward a non-elected invention. The Examiner believes that synthesis claims 167-170 belong to non-elected group XX, claim 170 belongs to non-elected group XXII, and claim 166 belongs to a third method of synthesis, distinct from both groups XIX and XX.

The Examiner states that claims 58-149, 161, 164-165, and 167-170 are drawn to a non-elected invention, and that a complete reply must include the cancellation of non-elected claims.

The Applicants believe that the Examiner means claims 58-149, 161, 163-164, and 167-170, as claim 165 is a dependant claim of claim 1 and drawn to the elected invention. The Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to confirm this. The Applicants have asked the Examiner to cancel claims